

The Truancy Initiative Project is a joint effort of the following agencies to reduce truancy:

- ♣ St. Louis Public Schools
- ♣ Family Court – 22nd Circuit
- ♣ St. Louis Police Department
- ♣ City Court

The project is supported by funds from the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant, U.S. Dept. of Justice, OJJDP, the Missouri Dept. of Public Safety, St. Louis Public Schools and the Family Court.

Please call 552-2000 if you have any questions and ask to speak with the Supervisor of the Truancy Initiative Unit.

Participating schools

Beaumont High School
Gateway I.T.
Roosevelt High School
Sumner High School
Vashon High School
Blow Middle School
Northwest Middle School

Family Court – Juvenile Division

Main Court
920 North Vandeventer Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri 63108
(314) 552-2000
(314) 552-2260 (Fax)
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Monday – Friday (Except Holidays)



If you need assistance or an accommodation in order to participate in these court services, please contact:

**THE AMERICANS with
DISABILITY COORDINATOR,
JANICE KOCH**

**at
920 North Vandeventer Ave
St. Louis, Missouri 63108
or by telephone
VOICE (314) 552-2118
TDD (314) 531-6158**

Truancy Initiative Project



Family Court - Juvenile Division
3827 Enright Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63108
(314) 552-2533
(314) 552-2547 (Fax)

Main Court: (314) 552-2000
Main Court Fax: (314) 552-2260
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday (Except Holidays)



Dedicated to Juvenile Justice

What is the Truancy Initiative Project?

The Truancy Initiative Project is a voluntary diversion program designed to avoid formal prosecution of truancy cases.

Why was my child referred to Truancy Court?

Your child was referred by the school for being truant (having unexcused and/or undocumented absences).

Children under age 16 must attend school – it's the law.

What happens at Court?

At your first Court appearance you will enter the Courtroom with the other newly referred parents and children. The Judge will explain the Truancy Ordinance and resources available to help you and your child.

You and your child will be asked to read and sign a Behavior Contract. By signing the contract your child will agree to attend school daily, obey his parents, keep a curfew, and attend all Court hearings. The parent is asked to sign the contract agreeing to attend school conferences and Court hearings.

What is the Truancy Ordinance?

It says that a parent, guardian, or other person who has control or custody of a child between the ages of 7 and 16 must have that child enrolled and attending school daily.

To knowingly permit a child to not attend school, without a legitimate, documented excuse, is against the law.

Any person convicted of a violation of this law can be fined \$25.00 for each day the child is truant or jailed up to 90 days.

Will I be fined because my child has been truant?

If you participate in the Truancy Initiative by attending Court hearings, sending your child to school daily and your child's attendance improves significantly, attending parent-teacher conferences and any other services requested by the Deputy Juvenile Officer or ordered by the Judge — you will not be fined.

If you choose not to participate you will be referred to the City Counselor's Office for prosecution and you may be fined.

What services are available to help my child and me?

Tutoring, counseling, case-management, and alcohol/drug treatment are available to help your child.

What happens if my child continues to be truant?

We will start by working with you and your child through the Informal Adjustment process. Informal Adjustment is a Court term that refers to a process of providing services to address the issues of why your child is truant.

If your child's attendance does not improve he/she will be sanctioned. Sanctions include community services, anger management, writing assignments, touring a prison and detention.

If these interventions do not work, additional services will be offered. In addition, the parent/guardian may be referred to City Court.

Helpful Resources

Missouri Children's Division
(Formerly known as DFS)
Abuse/Neglect Hotline
1-800-392-3738

Life Crisis (referral and help line)
647-4357

Police Department/Juvenile Division
444-5327

Dial Help
371-4357

Housing Resource Center